# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# FINANCE
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:337
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2006
TASK FORCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WASTELAND
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government had set up a Task Force in 2002 for linkage with credit institutions for wasteland and watershed development ;

(b) if so, whether all the recommendations made by the said Task Force were taken up for implementation ;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations which were put for implementation; and

(d) the extent to which the credit institutions have implemented the said recommendations and made available funds for wasteland and watershed development in each State ?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM)

(a) A Nine member Task Force was constituted in March 2002 by Department of Land Resources under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, for linkage with Credit Institutions for Wastelands/ Watershed Development.

(b)to(d) The Task Force submitted its report in December 2004. The report was circulated to the Secretaries of the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Forests and Water Resources, all State Secretaries of Rural Development Department, Planning Commission, CEO, Indian Banks` Association, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD in January 2006 for information and necessary action. The major recommendations of the Task Force are concerning :

- Role of NABARD in flow of credit for livelihood activities; Bankers` involvement; Corporate involvement; Credit to user groups/Self Help Groups/Gram Panchayats; Legal provisions; Technical Guidance for selection of Watershed Development models; Zila Parishads/District Rural Development Agencies to help in documentation; Watershed/Wasteland Development programme by one department.

The recommendations of the Task Force on which NABARD and banks are to take action are as under:-

NABARD should step up its scope of funding from bilateral agencies for development of watersheds/ degraded lands.

It should develop viable models of projects for development of wastelands/degraded lands.

NABARD should co-ordinate with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), People`s Organisations, Local Bodies to facilitate their involvement.

NABARD should also be involved in providing policy inputs at the National Level. The lead Bank in the District should be involved in formulation of watershed projects.

Training programmes be held for bankers to create awareness on watershed development programme and natural resource management and with District Administration and Implementing Agencies for exploring definite avenues of investment in this sector.Banks have initiated preparation of Credit Plans.